

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising the steps of:
  - 2 a) having a cellular module respond to a cellular
  - 3 communication signal by providing a trigger pulse derived
  - 4 from the data component of the cellular communication signal;
  - 5 and
  - 6 b) directing the trigger pulse along a special hardware path
  - 7 leading from the cellular module to a user module;
  - 8 wherein the special hardware path conducts the trigger pulse in
  - 9 such a way that the trigger pulse is provided to the user module
  - 10 substantially free of any significant random delays.
- 11 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user module includes a
- 12 frequency generation module that provides a stable frequency
- 13 reference based on the trigger pulse.
- 14 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
- 15 identifying each new frame in the cellular communication signal,
- 16 and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time a new frame
- 17 is identified.
- 18 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
- 19 identifying each new time slot in the cellular communication
- 20 signal, and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time a new
- 21 time slot is identified.
- 22 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
- 23 identifying each new data bit in the cellular communication
- 24 signal, and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time a new
- 25 data bit is identified.

1       6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of having  
2       the user module respond to a global positioning system (GPS)  
3       satellite navigation signal and also having the user module  
4       respond to the stable frequency reference by using the stable  
5       frequency reference to stabilize the operation of a local clock.

1       7. An apparatus comprising:

2       a) a cellular module, responsive to a cellular communication  
3       signal, for providing a trigger pulse derived from the data  
4       component of the cellular communication signal;

5       b) a user module; and

6       c) a special hardware path, for conducting the trigger pulse  
7       from the cellular module to the user module in such a way  
8       that the trigger pulse is provided free of any significant  
9       random delays.

1       8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the user module includes a  
2       frequency generation module that provides a stable frequency  
3       reference based on the trigger pulse.

1       9. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a frame counter,  
2       and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time the frame  
3       counter indicates a new frame.

1       10. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a time slot  
2       counter, and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time the  
3       time slot counter indicates a new time slot.

1       11. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a data bit  
2       counter, and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time the  
3       data bit counter indicates a new data bit.

1       12. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the apparatus is a global  
2       positioning system (GPS) receiver further comprising a GPS module  
3       including the frequency generation module, the GPS module also  
4       including a local oscillator, the GPS module responsive to the  
5       stable frequency reference and further responsive to a GPS  
6       satellite navigation signal.

1       13. A system comprising:

2           a) a cellular base station, for providing a cellular  
3           communication signal;

4           b) a cellular module, responsive to the cellular  
9           communication signal, for providing a trigger pulse derived  
      from the data component of the cellular communication signal;

1           c) a user module; and

1           d) a special hardware path, for conducting the trigger pulse  
9           from the cellular module to the user module in such a way  
      that the trigger pulse is provided free of any significant  
      random delays.

1       14. The system of claim 13, wherein the user module includes a  
2       frequency generation module that provides a stable frequency  
3       reference based on the trigger pulse.

1       15. The system of claim 13, further comprising a frame counter,  
2       and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time the frame  
3       counter indicates a new frame.

1       16. The system of claim 13, further comprising a time slot  
2       counter, and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time the  
3       time slot counter indicates a new time slot.

1       17. The system of claim 13, further comprising a data bit  
2       counter, and wherein the trigger pulse is provided each time the  
3       data bit counter indicates a new data bit.

1       18. The system of claim 13, wherein the system is a global  
2       positioning system (GPS) receiver further comprising a GPS module  
3       including the frequency generation module, the GPS module also  
4       including a local oscillator, the GPS module responsive to the  
5       stable frequency reference and further responsive to a GPS  
6       satellite navigation signal.